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1754

Date February 25, 2003 Label No. EV122923472US

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Ashley Smith

Name (Print)

Signature

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GROUP 1700

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: RUMPF et al.)

Application No.: 09/857,490)

Group Art Unit: 1754

Filed: June 1, 2001)

Examiner: HENDRICKSON, Stuart L.

For: PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION OF CARBON BLACK

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 25, 2003

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement is in response to the Office Action dated January 29, 2003, for which the Examiner has set a one-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before February 28, 2003.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has requested that applicants elect for examination purposes a single invention selected from Group I, encompassing claims 1-8 and drawn to a process and Group II, encompassing claims 9-14, and drawn to a different process.

In response, the applicants elect with traverse the subject matter of group I encompassing claims 1-8.

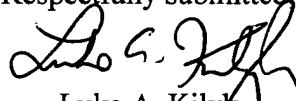
The applicants believe that the remaining subject matter as set forth in claims 9-14 can be searched at the same time since it appear no serious burden would occur if the Examiner searched this subject matter at the same time. Under M.P.E.P §803, if there is no serious burden, the

Response To Restriction Requirement
U.S. Patent Application No. 09/857,490

Examiner must examine all claims of the application even if the claims are directed to two or more inventions. Since it appears that this standard would apply to the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the Restriction Requirement and search all claims at this time.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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